

Protection and Free Trade To-day.

Writing paper under the above title was read before the Arkwright Club, Mass., by Robert P. Potter. The paper was published by Jas. R. Jackson, Boston. It is full of vain talk. We make a few extracts:

The movement of protection will in no wise diminish the free traders claim upon immigration, and hence lessen the increasing demand for food at home, which leave him in a much worse position now is in, in the matter of Russian competition. In the language of Kelley, of Pennsylvania: the primary want of the American farmer is remunerative home market; our mills, forges, furnaces, and factories busy, and our operatives were well occupied nine-tenths of all time we could grow; but with idleness in our industrial centres, with the reduction of wages and the power to consume, great branches of industry expelled from the country, we cannot look to an increase in the home demand or the maintenance of high prices.

American Farmer must not forget the direct benefit he receives from the protective tariff in the duty on wool and agricultural products, and in the direct increase, as I have shown, in the price of his land and the price of his labor, and the continued cheapening of his patented goods, there is yet another advantage in this system too often overlooked by farmers. The protective tariff prevents taxation. Abolish your customs as the more financial free-trade process and annually over \$200,000,000 must be raised by direct taxation.

Farmers of Michigan have been looking into the question of direct taxation, and various results they have reached lead to farmers throughout the country. The statistician has discovered that proposed custom houses produced, in \$2,813,000,000; that this amount, distributed among the several States of the Union according to population, as the free-trade proposal, would add the sum of \$6,652 to the annual tax roll of Michigan, but equivalent to \$1 mill in the United States as nowhere else.

Our experience vindicates the policy of protection; its strength lies in the prosperity it has given the nation; in the great industrial cities it has built up; in the prosperous and diversified industries it has founded; in the profitable home market it has given our farmers; in the varied employment it has given the men and youths of the country; in the homes and profitable work it has offered our kin beyond the sea.

In all that goes to make a nation strong and prosperous; in all that goes to make a country great and independent; in all that goes to broaden the horizon of the laborer, increase his earnings, cheapen the cost of what he buys, and improve his condition—in all this lies the strength of the protective system.

Firm in the convictions of our leading thinkers, deeply seated in the experience of the country, strong in the hearts of the majority of its rich fruit, it is not likely the American system, shaped by the same hands that built the republic, is to be wiped out for a system which in the earlier days of our national existence was known as the "Colonial Policy," and to-day as the "Manchester School," or "Free Trade."

The cause of protection is the people's cause; it affects the vast masses of the people, and they must understand it. It cannot alone be studied in the lecture room. It can be studied in the light of the experiences of other nations, and in the experience of our own country. In this way I have attempted to present the facts, which must speak for themselves. As an inquirer after the truth, I have traveled thousands of miles through the industrial regions of Europe and our own country, and in this spirit of inquiry, and with no pretensions to political economy, I submit this address, earnestly believing with Henry Clay that,

"The cause is the cause of the country, and it must and will prevail. It is founded on the interests and affections of the people. It is as native as the granite, deeply imbedded in our mountains."

Wages at home and abroad in some textile industries:

		AVERAGE WEEKLY RATE OF WAGES PAID IN WOOLEN FABRICORIES.		
	U. S.	France	Engl'd; Germ'y;	Wool. Sorters
Men	\$9.43	\$5.82	\$5.76	\$5.50
Women	2.70	2.40	2.50	
Young Persons	5.12	2.00	1.80	1.90
Men (overseers)	12.00	6.50	6.00	6.60
Spinners	9.05	6.00	5.00	5.25
Women	4.15	3.00	3.00	3.00
Pearlers	3.00	1.80	1.80	1.90
Piercers	5.00	3.00	2.50	2.40
WEAVERS				
Men	8.15	4.67	4.80	4.25
Women	7.45	4.00	3.48	4.00
Mechanics	15.48	6.25	5.50	5.00
WEAVING MACHINES				
Massachusetts District. Report of Bureau of Statistics, Massachusetts, 1882.				
Rhode Island. Compiled by Consul Frisbie, from books of manufacturers, 1882.				
2 Yorkshire District. Report of Robert Gifford, Statistical Department, Board of Trade, 1882.				
2 Ireland. Compiled by Consul DuBois, from books of manufacturers, 1882.				

We have a table here, founded on the careful work of four responsible authorities. If they tell the truth, the fact is established that in the important woollen districts the wages of England and the Continent are alike; that protective France and Germany, with their new tariffs, have increased the well-being of their work-people, while Great Britain has done the reverse by opening her ports. The table establishes that wages are about 100 per cent. greater in this industry in the United States than in any of the European countries. To abolish the duties that secure this to the workingman of the United States would result if it had been done in England—in a leveling of wages.

Below I print what Mr. Carroll D. Wright, of the Bureau of Statistics of Massachusetts, calls the general average weekly wages paid to all employees in Massachusetts and Great Britain in 1883:

		GENERAL AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES PAID TO ALL EMPLOYED.		
	U. S.	France	Engl'd; Germ'y;	Wool. Sorters
INDUSTRIES	March'g. 1883.	\$9.85		
Agricultural implements	10.25	5.85		
Artisan's tools	11.80	4.80		
Boots and shoes	9.83	4.87		
Building trades	8.63	4.16		
Carpenters	14.99	7.81		
Carters and wagons	13.80	4.89		
Clothing	10.01	6.71		
Cotton goods	6.45	2.84		
Fax and lace goods	4.46	2.73		
Fine preparations	9.81	2.73		
Furniture	11.04	7.96		
Glasses	12.39	6.00		
Hosiery, wool, silk and cotton	11.01	5.51		
Hosiery—malt and distilled liquors	6.49	1.67		
Metals and metallic goods	11.25	7.40		
Printing, drawing and engraving	8.67	4.94		
Printing, drawing and engraving cotton textiles	14.39	8.55		
Stone	11.19	5.67		
Wooden goods	6.90	4.86		
Worsted goods	7.08	3.60		
All Industries	10.81	5.88		

"Average" instead of "high" wages rates for Great Britain.

price, not of grain in general, as is often said, but of our surplus. Our own price average wages to all employees for the twenty-four industries considered in Massachusetts was \$10.31 a week, while that for fact without meaning. Indeed any Nation Great Britain is \$5.86 a week—the wages wholly given to gathering the annual products of the earth would be likely, I judge, to make more, in the end, of its belly than of brains. Commerce itself must find, I think, its best development in the exchange of fabrics for which each country offers special facilities, rather than in exchanging the manufactures of one people for the foods and raw materials of others. International competition is thus stimulated too; and the general level of the world's skill seems me like to be noted.

Dr. STORRS ON MR. BLAINE.

Shortly after the Chicago nomination was made a statement from the Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs, the well known pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, was widely published, in which he expressed a determination to vote for Mr. Blaine, although he had not been eager to have him nominated. The political situation having materially changed since that interview was published, a member of *The Tribune* staff called on Dr. Storrs Saturday and asked him if he still intended to vote for Blaine and Logan. Inquiries were also made as to what he thought of the charges against the head of the Republican ticket, his opinion of Cleveland, and his views on the subject of protection to American industries. Dr. Storrs was found in his pleasant study in the rear of his church, in Remsen st., the four walls being lined with books, and large easy chairs and sofas standing in front of an open fireplace. The whole appearance of the room and desk indicated that was the literary workshop of a busy man. In answer to the questions suggested, Dr. Storrs said: "No, I haven't changed my mind about voting for Mr. Blaine, except as my purpose to do so is stronger than it was. I was not enthusiastic about his nomination, and perhaps am not yet up to *The Tribune's* level of zeal on the subject." But whatever my vote can do toward his election will certainly be done. It doesn't seem to me that his assailants have shown him to be unworthy of the support of his countrymen. Some of their attacks have been so groundless, and so vicious in temper, that one has had to guard himself against reacting to the opposite extreme. But even the more respectable attacks seem to me to have failed to establish charges of falsehood or dishonesty on his part, or to show that he used legislative office for corrupt pecuniary gain. On this last matter, I cannot but think there was a very distinct negative pregnant in the fact that Oakes Ames, who was one of the shrewdest of men never tried, or certainly never with success, to get Mr. Blaine engaged in his schemes about the Union Pacific Railroad, while he did, enlist in them other distinguished members of Congress, to lasting discredit. Mr. Blaine was comparatively young, with limited means and an inveterate household. He could have been of more service to Mr. Ames in forestalling hostile legislation than any five of the men whom the latter secured; and the fact that his hands were wholly clean in that connection casts, I think, a good deal of doubt—to say the least of it—on the subsequent charges against him.

The sentences extracted from his private correspondence, which have been so incisively used against him, appear to me fairly susceptible of an interpretation not dishonest to him, though he certainly was not fortunate or discreet in writing them; and the energetic testimonies to his generally just and generous character, which have come from clergymen and laymen alike who have long known him, are certainly of great weight in his favor. Its all nonsense to say that ministers like Dr. Webb, of Boston, for example, are more zealous than other people where questions of personal character are concerned. They are not buried in abstract discussions. They live among men and meet all sorts of people; and they recognize a scamp as quickly as anybody. The charge which is often petulantly made in the opposite direction, that they are uniformly fastidious and critical, has a far better foundation.

It seems very clear, too, that since the nominations were made the character of the only other candidate who can possibly be elected has received a fatal wound—fatal, that is, to any just aspirations on his part toward the Presidency. The suggestion that a man whose history is stained with admitted licentiousness may yet probably and deliberately be put at the head of the nation must certainly be scouted. Forgiveness is one thing. Popular coronation is quite another. Ethics must surely take precedence of politics. It would seem to me, certainly, a grave offence against the family, against the public honor for chaste womanhood, against the divine law of purity, against the essential welfare of the State, to contribute to elevate to the highest office in the gift of his countrymen a man with a loose woman in his train, and an illegitimate son. I can hardly imagine anything of worse example to the multitudes of young men who are dangerously tempted, and who need whatever succor to their virtue may come from a supporting and imperative public sentiment. It would seem to me to make the nation at large, if not the positive patron of lewdness, at least the careless apologist for it. It would put dishonor upon the American name among all Christian peoples. I cannot imagine that the conscience of the country has reached a point of numb weakness where such a thing is possible.

Then I must say that aside from all questions about the personal character of candidates, my sympathies remain strongly with the Republican party. On the great question, for example, which is now so prominent, of the Protection by legislation of American industry, I am irresolutely on its side. Looking at the matter in a common sense fashion, without the ghost of a theory to support it, it strikes me that the policy of protection to its own industry, on the part of a Nation as young as ours, and with a territory so rich in ores and textile materials, is a thing of vital importance. As I apprehend it, such protection consults the interest not only of the workmen whose labor is guarded against oppressive competition with the cheap and hopeless labor of foreign countries, but of the farmer, who gains ready and wider sale for his products, or even the purchaser of manufactured goods, who gets his fabrics nearly or quite as cheaply in the end as if he had bought them in foreign markets, while the general prosperity stimulated around him is to him, as to others, of vast advantage.

I know that experts in political economy differ widely on the subject; but to me it seems as plain as the line of city street that the policy of protection tends to diversify industry, to educate skill, to attract and reward inventive genius, to make a young Nation more quickly independent of others, on cats, piped the small boy at the foot.

House Furnishing.

TAKING A VIEW OF A SPLENDID ESTABLISHMENT AND ITS CONTENTS.

Messrs. A. H. Van Horn & Co., the well known furniture dealers of 73 Market street, who for a long time have ranked among the most enterprising and successful merchants of this city, as well as among the most extensive dealers in their line of trade, recently completed some extensive improvements to their establishment which have made it one of the most attractive looking and largest business places in the city. The most conspicuous, as well as the most important features of the improvements consist of an additional story, making it now a four story building, extending through to Campbell street, a distance of 200 feet, and an entire new front which certainly is one of the handsomest store fronts the city can boast of. The first and second story elevations exist here, should be domesticated and tenanted almost entirely of heavy French plate glass enclosed in sash of polished walnut, while the third and fourth are of handsome Philadelphia pressed brick, and with brown stone trimmings, and over all there is a massive, wide sign over six feet high of the same width as the building, which is artistically lettered in gold. Some of the plate glass used in the construction of the new front are six by eight feet in dimensions, and in addition to the vast number of square feet of plate glass employed for this purpose, fully the same quantity, but of smaller dimensions, are used in extending the show windows of the lower floor in the rear to a distance of twelve feet, the wood work of which is also of polished walnut. The front of the second story is constructed in the bulk window style, now so frequently met with in the more modern business blocks in all large cities. The improvements have not been confined to the front of the building by any means. On the contrary the interior has been thoroughly overhauled and remodeled, particularly the first floor, which is newly panelled with pine, and every part of the building is now so frequently met with in the more modern business blocks in all large cities. The improvements have not been confined to the front of the building by any means. On the contrary the interior has been thoroughly overhauled and remodeled, particularly the first floor, which is newly panelled with pine, and every part of the building is now so frequently met with in the more modern business blocks in all large cities. The improvements have not been confined to the front of the building by any means. On the contrary the interior has been thoroughly overhauled and remodeled, particularly the first floor, which is newly panelled with pine, and every part of the building is now so frequently met with in the more modern business blocks in all large cities.

I am therefore steadfastly in favor of the policy of Protection to American Industry. I am sure that the best final condition of the Nation demands that all varieties of skilled labor, for which appropriate materials exist here, should be domesticated and tenanted almost entirely of heavy

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